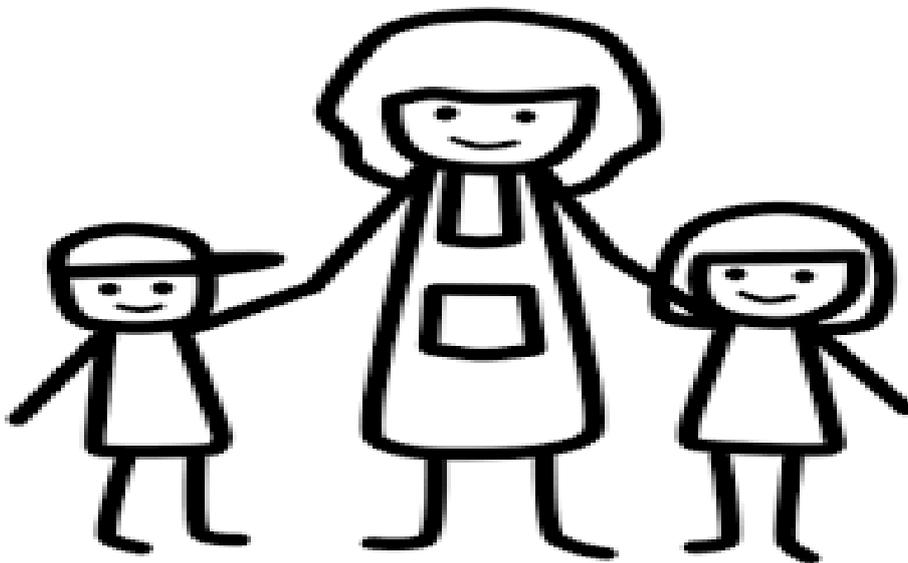


Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy 2017- 2020



Children and Young People with the best start in life

Version	Version 1
Adopted by	DSCB
Date	August 2018
Review date	August 2020

1. Introduction

This multi-agency neglect strategy has been developed to set out the strategic aims and objectives to our approach to tackling neglect in Darlington.

This strategy should be considered alongside other key documents including the [Early Help Strategy](#) the [Children and Young People's Plan 2017 – 2022](#) and [Darlington Safeguarding Children Board's Child Protection procedures](#).

2. Our Strategic Aims and Objectives

As partners we will work together to reduce the impact of neglect on children in Darlington.

There are five strategic objectives that underpin our approach:



3. Recognise and understand

To understand what neglect is, its impact on children, young people and families and to ensure all agencies including the voluntary sector are clear about their roles and responsibilities in protecting children and young people from the impact of neglect.

- To have a knowledgeable and confident workforce who are equipped with the appropriate tools and resources to work with children, young people and families who are experiencing neglect

- Raise awareness of the Neglect Strategy using a variety of communication methods.

4. Address

To ensure children, young people and their families are supported to access the right service at the right time.

- To ensure the threshold document is promoted and used appropriately
- To develop practice guidance including a supporting tool-kit to support all those working with children, young people and their families where neglect is evident
- Each agency will ensure the communication, implementation and embedding of this strategy to ensure “safeguarding is everyone’s business.”

5. Empower

Children, young people and their families will be listened and responded to in an appropriate and timely manner.

- To develop different approaches to empower families to recognise, understand and reduce the long-term impact of neglect
- Children, young people and their families are heard and understood by all agencies and their views are used to develop and influence service delivery.

6. Performance

We will identify the extent and range of neglect in Darlington through gathering business intelligence to inform practice and improve outcomes for children and young people.

- To strengthen the current LSCB data set to incorporate information regarding neglect across the agencies to further understand the prevalence of neglect in Darlington
- Identify themes and trends using qualitative and quantitative data to inform future service developments.

7. Evaluate

We will evaluate our performance to assure ourselves of the effectiveness of this strategy to demonstrate that our work has made a difference to the outcomes and quality of life for children, young people and their families in Darlington.

- Establish a multi-agency audit cycle to focus specifically on neglect. Outcomes and findings will be reported to LSCB
- Outcomes of findings to inform training, policies and procedures, and service developments
- Undertake an impact assessment to demonstrate the effectiveness of this strategy.

8. Governance and Accountability

The DSCB Annual Report will provide an account of how we improve and support the professional response to neglect in Darlington. This will also be demonstrated through performance data reports presented to the Board.